MILEY'S CRAZIEST OUTFIT TO DATE

SEE HER CRAZY CHRISTMAS LOOK INSIDE. PAGE 25

metro

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Wage hike

Living wage. Protesters march through Center City to press city authorities to raise the minimum wage in Philadelphia to $15 an hour. PAGE 02

Shymara Jones, 21, chants during a protest by striking fast-food workers and their supporters in Center City. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Council to call out immigration lawyers

PAGE 04

Why is this year's Best Actress race so empty?

PAGE 16

Spotlight on local music at Hip-Hop Awards

PAGES 22-23

McCoy can break Birds' record vs. Seattle

PAGE 30

1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 PHOTOS: Protesters take over New York City streets following grand jury's decision for Eric Garner case

2 2014: The year in entertainment (PHOTOS)

3 What to watch at home this slow movie weekend

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

Shymara Jones, 21, chants during a protest by fast-food workers in Center City on Thursday to call for a $15 an hour minimum wage. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Protest: 'We can't survive on $7.25'

Philadelphia. Fast food and other minimum-wage workers took to the streets calling for a $15 minimum wage in the city.

Shymara Jones has been working as a cashier at Popeyes for five years, but she still earns just $7.60 an hour. That's why she joined in a protest against her employer on Thursday.

"My biggest struggle right now is working two jobs, paying my tuition off and not being able to see my son all seven days," the 21-year-old said.

Jones was one of hundreds of low- and minimum-wage Philadelphia workers who joined workers across the U.S Thursday in marches to call for cities to raise the minimum wage to $15 an hour.

A South Philadelphia High School graduate with a 2-year-old son, Jayden, Jones finished a Kaplan Career Institute course to be a medical assistant in November. She spent $16,000 on the course and hasn't been able to get a medical job. Nor can she get additional hours at Popeyes, she said.

"When I do see my son, I need a chance to take him out and have fun with him, but once I get a paycheck, I'm broke again," she said.

Republican City Council candidate Matt Wolfe says cities shouldn't be legislating wages.

"This is a issue that has to be dealt with on a federal or state level, not a local level," he said. "It is nothing more and nothing less than City Council pandering to special interest groups to the detriment of Philadelphia."

President Barack Obama has failed to persuade Congress to raise the minimum wage to $10.15 an hour.

Temple University law professor Brishen Rogers says Philadelphia and other cities must act where Congress won't.

"It means a Big Mac will cost a little more, but it's worth it," said Rogers. "Is it feasible for the city to be a city where workers are paid so little that they have to use public assistance?"

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about the fight over minimum wage.

City ordinance

City lawyers are reportedly studying whether a move to increase the wage in Philly is legal.

- If it is, Councilman Kenyatta Johnson said he would "strongly consider" introducing minimum wage legislation, the Inquirer previously reported.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Quoted

My biggest struggle is living itself. I can't afford the basics: hot water, electric, rent.

Jamere Saunders
25, $8.25 an hour at McDonalds

"It's not enough. We stay an extra half hour, managers leave during shoptime, then we're doing their jobs. We don't get overtime."

Shakorah Benjamin
17, $7.35 an hour at McDonalds

"I can't afford to buy new textbooks. ... I'm allowed to strike — it's my right."

Giovanni Theodore
23, $7.50 an hour at Yellow Juice Bar

Cosby at his initiation ceremony in 2011
CREATIVE COMMONS

Philadelphia. Cosby stripped of Navy title

Bill Cosby has been stripped of an honorary title of U.S. Navy chief petty officer that he was granted in 2011, as allegations of sexual assault or harassment mount against the 77-year-old comedian.

"The Navy is taking this action because allegations against Mr. Cosby are very serious and are in conflict with the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment," read a statement issued by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael Stevens.

Cosby served four years with the Navy and was a 3rd class petty officer when he was honorably discharged in 1960. METRO

Germantown

Man charged in Laker's father's murder

Police announced that Carl White, 34, of West Philly, was arrested Thursday and charged with the Nov. 9 murder in Germantown of Wayne Ellington Sr., 57.

Ellington's son, Wayne Ellington Jr., a shooting guard with the Los Angeles Lakers, had released no comment on White's arrest as off press time.

Ellington Jr. tweeted on Nov. 19, "Happy Birthday Old Head!! Pops woulda been 58 today. Let's celebrate for him!"

Ellington Sr. was found dead in the front seat of a 2001 Oldsmobile after having been shot in the head.

The motive was an argument, police said. METRO

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'Fly Eagles Fly.' City honors fight song

The authors of the Philadelphia Eagles fight song are flying high.

City Councilman Jim Kenney introduced a resolution Thursday —which intended to honor the two men who wrote the now infamous fight song for the city's professional football team in the early 1960s — and his fellow council members unanimously approved it.

The honor went to Charlie Borelli and Roger Courtland, who the Eagles officially credit as the authors of the Eagle anthem, "Fly Eagles Fly."

Kenney said that while the fight song is legendary, it falls just short of the city's best theme song of all time.

"Remember," he said, "the 'Rocky' theme."

TOMMY ROWAN

Tony's Metro Magic toy drive

Help Metro help others

Join Metro in giving to a local child in need this holiday season. Here's how:

1 Look for the Tony's Metro Magic logo on our website, Metro.us.

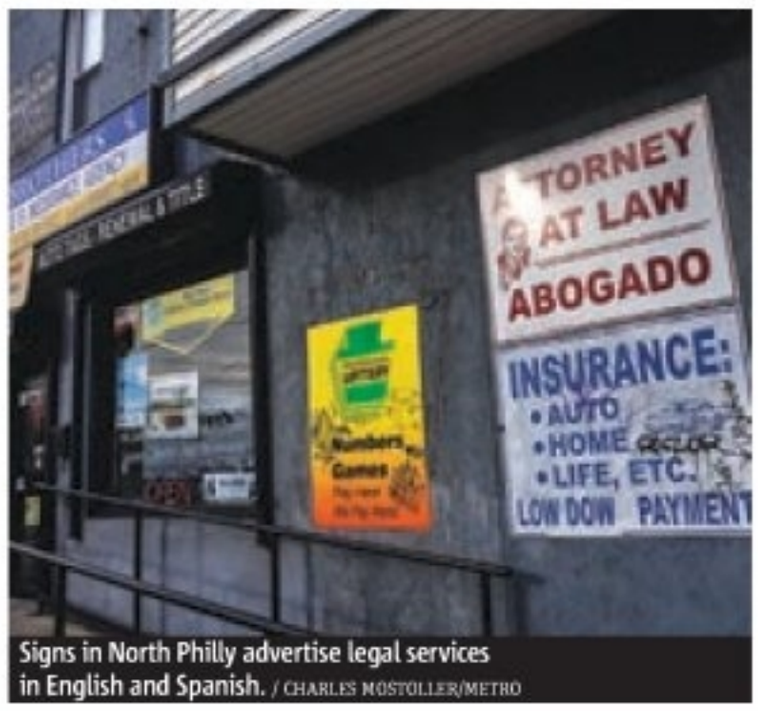
2 One click on the logo will take you to a "Wish List" we have set up via a secure link on Toysrus .com.

3 Simply select the toys you want and purchase them. That's it!

In addition to Toys for Tots, your toy donations go to local families who are receiving help from Institute for the Development of African-American Youth. METRO

New bill takes aim at immigration rip-offs

Immigration. City Council is looking to fight more quickly fake lawyers targeting immigrants looking for help.



Signs in North Philly advertise legal services in English and Spanish. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER/METRO

If an undocumented immigrant is scammed in Philadelphia they're afraid to complain, lest they get deported.

So a few city council members are bringing in some reinforcements.

A new bill, which had its first reading in City Council on Thursday, would take aim at scammers who pose in advertisements as immigration lawyers and prey on the ignorant and their bank accounts.

By the numbers

12 %

Counting nearly 300,000 people, Hispanics make up about 12 percent of the Philadelphia's population.

The bill was submitted after President Barack Obama ordered federal workers to allow millions of undocumented immigrants to register for legal status in exchange for protection from deportation.

"We need to have a proactive education campaign in light of President Obama's recent announcement," said City Councilwoman Maria D. Quiñones-Sánchez, whose district has a large Hispanic population.

While people posing as lawyers can be arrested or charged for impersonation, the process takes time and scammed victims rarely recover the money or time they lost to the scam artist.

The council's bill would head off trouble before it happens by adding a symbol to websites and advertisements of genuine attorneys so immigrants can easily identify the right people.

TOMMY ROWAN
@tommyrowan
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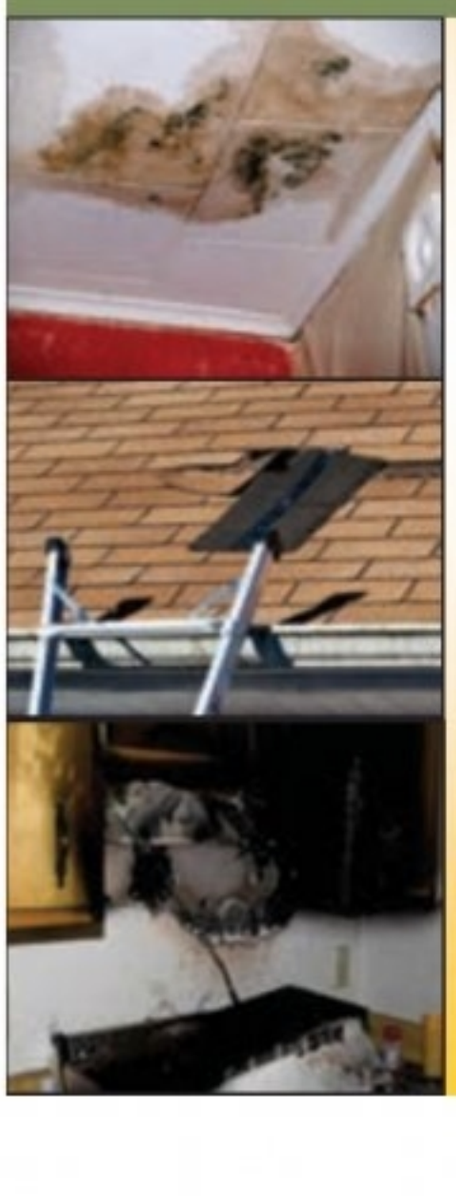
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MPC 2014 GLOBAL WINNERS

NYC. The winners will be treated to round-trip flights, transportation and accommodation.

The global grand prize winners, one from each of the MPC categories, will receive a once-in-a-lifetime photography expedition to New York City and a meet-and-greet with Michael Bloomberg, the United Nations Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change.

The three winners of the 2014 Metro Photo Challenge will take part in a photography trip that will include capturing the beautiful city scenery and soaking up the bustling atmosphere. They'll also enjoy a special guided photo experience to capture the nature of big-city living.

The photographs the winners take during their expedition will be published in Metro editions the world over, giving the winning photographers the worldwide recognition they deserve.

MPC by the numbers

8
weeks of competition

36,500
participants

128K+
photos submitted

800K+
visits

1.5M
votes cast

My City's Magic grand prize winner: Jankel Grubman, Brazil

My Green City grand prize winner: Bernard Caelen, Belgium

Urban Escape grand prize winner: Malin Jochumsen, Sweden

Metro Photo Challenge was introduced 10 years ago in Sweden and ran globally for the first time in 2007.

MPC aims to connect people around the world through the universal language of photography and to reward outstanding photographers through local recognition and global prizes.

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Cleveland police use excessive force: US Justice Department

The announcement. It comes at a tense moment between law enforcement and communities across the U.S.

Attorney General Eric Holder said on Thursday that an investigation by the U.S. Justice Department has found that the Cleveland Police Department systematically engages in excessive use of force against civilians.

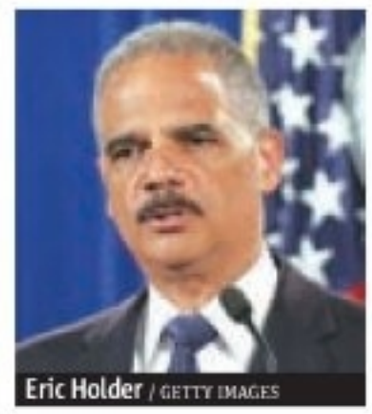
The investigation began in March 2013, and it carries added weight after an incident in November when a Cleveland police officer shot dead a 12-year-old boy who was carrying what turned out to be a replica gun that typically fires plastic pellets.

Holder was scheduled to meet with police, community leaders and elected officials in Cleveland on Thursday to begin discussing reform measures. Previous reforms have included installing a federal monitor to oversee the department.

The Cleveland investigation was launched after what Holder called a series of troubling high-profile police use-of-force incidents that brought appeals from city leaders for a federal investigation.

In one incident, Cleveland police engaged in a 22-mile high-speed chase in November 2012 that ended with officers firing nearly 140 rounds into a car, killing its two unarmed occupants. One officer was charged with voluntary manslaughter.

REUTERS


Eric Holder / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"Accountability and legitimacy are essential for communities to trust their police departments and for there to be genuine collaboration between police and the citizens they serve." Holder

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STK #150024B: SIRIUS Satellite Radio, Fuel Efficient, Alloy Wheels, Interior Air Filtration, Cruise Control, Climate Control, $500 Down

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CORRUPTION

Denmark is the least corrupt country in the world, according to the 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index released by Transparency International. The European nation is a paragon of anti-graft measures, yet more than two-thirds of the countries surveyed scored below 50 on a 100-point scale.

50
More than two-thirds of the 175 countries in the 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index score below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean).

+5
The biggest improvers were Cote d´Ivoire, Egypt, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (+5), Afghanistan, Jordan, Mali and Swaziland (+4).

-5
The scores of several countries rose or fell by four points or more. The biggest declines were in Turkey (-5), Angola, China, Malawi and Rwanda (all -4)

10 MOST CORRUPT COUNTRIES

1 SOMALIA
2 NORTH KOREA
3 SUDAN
4 AFGHANISTAN
5 SOUTH SUDAN
6 IRAQ
7 TURKMENISTAN
8 UZBEKISTAN
9 LIBYA
10 ERITREA

10 LEAST CORRUPT COUNTRIES

1 DENMARK
2 NEW ZEALAND
3 FINLAND
4 SWEDEN
5 NORWAY
6 SWITZERLAND
7 SINGAPORE
8 NETHERLANDS
9 LUXEMBOURG
10 CANADA

68%
of countries in the Americas score below 50 out of 100

64%
of Asia Pacific countries score below 50 out of 100

95%
of Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries score below 50 out of 100

16%
of EU and West Europe countries score below 50 out of 100

84%
of Middle East and North Africa countries score below 50 out of 100

92%
of Sub-Saharan Africa countries score below 50 out of 100

SOURCE: TRANSPARENCYINTERNATIONAL
TEXT: DANIEL CASILLAS / GRAPHIC: NANCY MACEDO / MWN

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Hillary Clinton seeks advice on how she can win 2016 campaign

Former first lady. She lost the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination to Barack Obama.

Former Secretary of State and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"As she decides, she's casting a wide net and wants to hear from a variety of people on a range of specific topics, from policy ideas to what a successful campaign would look like."

Nick Merrill
spokesman, wrote in an email

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is vetting people and developing a policy platform ahead of a possible 2016 run for the presidency, her spokesman said Thursday.

That's an important turn for the Clinton operation, which spent much of the past two years playing down her level of political engagement. It's the most pronounced acknowledgment of what has long been obvious to most political observers: She is preparing to run for president.

Clinton has met recently with former political aides Guy Cecil and Robby Mook, according to Politico. Longtime advisers say both men, along with California political strategist Ace Smith and EMILY's List President Stephanie Schriock, rank high on the list of likely suspects to run her second bid for the presidency.

In November 2012, she turned down Obama's offer to remain in her job for his second term. Since then, she's traveled the country giving paid speeches, raised money for her family's foundation and written a book, "Hard Choices," about her tenure as the nation's top diplomat.

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Question

What equipment will you use?

A virtual reality headset. But this will probably change, depending on what tech is available on the market at the time. There definitely will be bespoke "spy" glasses with digital lenses and two binder microphones built in. They will have 2TB of storage and a 24-hour battery life.

For 28 days, Mark Farid will be living his life through a person whose day-to-day existence and conversations will be streamed via an Oculus Rift headset. / SEEING-I

Visit us online at **Metro.us/omg** for more interviews.

OMG. Lose yourself in virtual reality in another person's life

The 22-year-old, whose project takes place in a gallery, will have no interaction with any other human being save one hour per day with a psychologist. / SEEING-I

An artist is using virtual reality to experience life through another person's eyes and ears. "The Seeing-I project is a social-artistic experiment that questions how much of the individual is an inherent personality and how large a portion of the individual is a cultural identity," explains the Londoner on his Kickstarter page. Mark Farid tells Metro why Seeing-I "will help us understand the ways in which technology has and is affecting us."

How did you come up with the experiment?
This social-artistic experiment was born when I was thinking about what makes you, you. I don't think any of the realities in which we live are genuine. We take physical reality as "real," but every building, road, park and garden has been designed. For example, trees are planted with the express goals of pertaining to position, pollution and colors. Everything within our existence is not natural, so I wanted to explore something different.

Why will you be doing it for exactly 28 days?
Due to the amount of current documentation stipulating that we lose and develop habits after three weeks, I have decided that four weeks is an adequate time frame to give an indication of how these new habits are adopted.

Have you done something like this before?
The closest I've come to this is trying to stay awake for 101 hours … so not really. But I'm incredibly frustrated about how long it's taken getting to this point, and yet there is still a lot further to go until the Seeing-I happens. It looks like an endurance test... This is not. If my crew feel that it is going too far and it could harm me, then I will have to take off the virtual reality headset. Anyway, I have to prepare: Currently, I'm undergoing sessions with a psychologist.

Whose life will you be living?
I know nothing of this person, other than that he is a heterosexual male over the age of 21 who is living with his wife or girlfriend. I call him "The Other."

How will you eat?
I will eat at the same time as "The Other" but in the physical world.

DMITRY BELYAEV, MWN

Question

Why are you not to have contact with anyone else?

The only contact will be with a psychologist for one hour a day, where I will still be wearing the VR headset and headphones, and I will be speaking to him through the headphones — it will act more as a verbal diary though.

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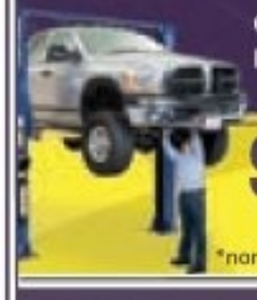

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Health notes

Bowel problems helped by self-acupressure

Are you among the estimated 19 percent of people in North America suffering from some kind of bowel issue? A recent UCLA study found a drug-free method that helped a majority of participants.

Researchers focused on the effectiveness of perineal self-acupressure, which involves putting pressure on the area between the anus and genitals. They gave about 100 participants just three to five minutes of instruction in a technique aimed to break up hard stools, relax muscles and stimulate bowel movements.

There's a drug-free way to get relief. / FUSE

Almost three-quarters of patients reported that it helped improve their condition and trigger a bowel movement. Over half also said it provided hemorrhoid relief.

A bad marriage really can break your heart

We've all heard the expression "dying of a broken heart," but a study of older couples and cardiovascular health found this may actually be true.

Most notably, the quality of a marriage appears to affect women's heart health more than men's. What's more is that heart disease also impacts marriage quality for female spouses, but not for men.

The Michigan State University study also found that an unsatisfying marriage has a bigger impact on health than a good one benefits well-being. MARIANNE HAYES

What if you could know your newborn's future?

Genetic testing.
New parents want a glimpse into the medical crystal ball.

Both moms and dads favored expanded genetic testing at birth. INGRAM PUBLISHING

The birth of a child is already a highly emotional time for parents. So would they want to add the knowledge of their newborn's full genetic potential to their list of joys and worries?

A new study says yes — but not all parents.

"Several other studies have measured parents' interest in newborn genomic screening, but none focused on new parents in the first 48 hours," says senior author Dr. Robert C. Green, a geneticist and researcher at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. "Since this is when genomic testing would be of the greatest value, it is especially important to study parents' attitudes immediately postpartum."

As genetic testing becomes a routine part of clinical care, and the scope of the information that genome sequencing yields increases, researchers and doctors are gauging interest in going beyond existing mandatory genetic screening done shortly after birth.

Current mandatory tests include 21 conditions (though some states test for as many as 30) affecting metabolism, blood disorders and other complications that could pose a short- or long-term threat to the newborn's health and development.

The study is the first to examine new parents' attitudes toward genetic testing through a survey of 514 parents of healthy babies within 48 hours of their birth at Brigham and Women's Hospital. It found that if the service is available, both parents (surveyed separately) expressed interest regardless of their backgrounds: 82.7 percent said they were somewhat (36 percent), very (28 percent) or extremely (18 percent) interested in newborn genomic testing.

Only one group of parents was less likely to favor genetic screening: those with pre-existing concerns about their baby's health.

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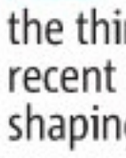
2 CULTURE

Why is the Best Actress Oscar race weak this year?

Film. A look at how the thinnest race in recent memory is shaping up.

The Oscar race this year is already something of a head-scratcher, and right at the center of it is a surprisingly light field of Best Actress contenders. Despite a clear front-runner — Julianne Moore for her devastating performance in "Still Alice," which comes with the alarming fact that she hasn't already won an Oscar — the category is looking a bit thin. And while that's more a commentary on the state of film and lead roles for women this year, it doesn't mean there aren't enough outstanding performances out there to make this race interesting. Here's a look at the contenders.



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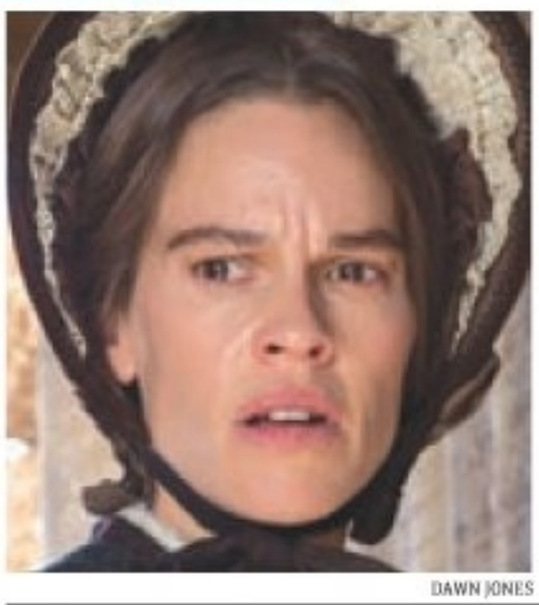
The shoo-in:

Julianne Moore, 'Still Alice'

Seriously, Moore's toughest acting job now is continuing to be surprised each time she nabs a trophy between now and February 22. She's basically this year's McConaughey.

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

The strong possibilities:



DAWN JONES

Hilary Swank, 'The Homesman'

Despite owning two Oscars (for "Boys Don't Cry" and "Million Dollar Baby"), Swank has wound up searching for that comeback vehicle to bring her a third trophy for a while now. This one comes close, but maybe voters just aren't in the mood for a gritty frontier drama this year, even a crazy one directed by and co-starring Tommy Lee Jones.

CINELOU RELEASING

Jennifer Aniston, 'Cake'

Some have dismissed Aniston's turn in this indie — as a divorcee who gets involved with a hallucinating widower (Sam Worthington) — as little more than makeup-free stunt-casting. But despite the shocking sight of her abstaining from makeup, the actress shows off some impressive dramatic chops — which anyone who's seen "The Good Girl" or "Friends with Money" already knew she had.

The sure-thing nominations:

FOX SEARCHLIGHT

Reese Witherspoon, 'Wild'

Previous winner Witherspoon turns in a solidly harrowing performance in "Wild," but it falls just short of the mark.

LIAM DANIEL, FOCUS FEATURES

Felicity Jones, 'The Theory of Everything'

It took some time for critics to see past the brilliance of her co-star — and another shoo-in nominee — Eddie Redmayne, but Jones should be recognized as well for her stellar work as theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking's first wife, Jane.

MERRICK MORTON

Rosamund Pike, 'Gone Girl'

People might have come for a glimpse at Ben Affleck's junk, but they stayed for Pike's surprising, chilly performance. Some of us, though, have been boosters of the English actress for years, so there.

Might we also recommend

Emily Blunt, 'Into the Woods'

It might be tough to single out anyone in this sprawling ensemble as a "lead," but Blunt comes closest as the Baker's Wife. And she's a standout in that big cast, holding her own against Meryl Streep, even.

PETER MOUNTAIN

Scarlett Johansson, 'Under the Skin'

If the Academy wanted to play things a little riskier, it could recognize the "Avengers" star's transformative — and sometimes silent — work in Jonathan Glazer's hypnotic and eerie science-fiction thriller.

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Stream these this

Good job, Hollywood! The holiday season is a great time for movies, with people clamoring to see mindless entertainments. But for whatever reason, there's only one new film opening nationally this weekend: a horror movie called "The Pyramid." It will be cold and/or rainy, so if you want to curl up at home with something big and possibly stupid, here are some options.

WARNER BROS.

'Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow'

XFINITY

Now confusingly listed under its catchy tagline instead of its forgettable title, the latest Tom Cruise spectacular is, as it happens, by far the most entertaining Hollywood product of the year — no less than a "Groundhog Day" with aliens. Give it a chance, then spread the word.

'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire'

Netflix Instant

The first half of "Mockingjay" is burning up the box office, but let's be honest: Its calm study of the pains of revolution is not the "Hunger Games" you came to see. If you miss the action and the Ken Russell-esque flamboyance, head online, where the second part still streams.

MURRAY CLOSE

MARVEL

'Marvel's The Avengers'

Netflix Instant

It's pretty weird that there's not presently a Marvel film in theaters. You can always dig through the most super-sized of the bunch, in which all the big superheroes (and a few smaller, lesser ones) banded together to fight, was it aliens? Which baddie is being battled and why are never important in these things, though all you really need to know is this is the one where Hulk beats up Loki and Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow comes off as the most bad-ass of the bunch.

WORDS OFF the PAGE
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'Snowpiercer'

Netflix Instant

Are you feeling ever so slightly adventurous? Now might be time to dial up this South Korean version of a blockbuster, albeit one starring Captain America himself. Chris Evans leads a revolution inside a train rolling around a dystopian Earth, and it's the kind of thriller that's both an angry political polemic and a goofy comedy, with some serious yuks coming from Tilda Swinton in granny glasses and giant teeth.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

'Nymphomaniac'

Netflix Instant and iTunes

If you're feeling really, really adventurous, you can tuck into Lars Von Trier's porn epic, which may be his last; the provocateur did announce that he can't make movies sober. If this is the end, it's a good one to leave on — one that's actually funnier than it is sex-drenched. It's that, too, especially in the 5 ½-hour X-rated cut you can now grab on iTunes.

MAGNOLIA PICTURES

MGM

James Bond

Netflix Instant

Every now and then, Netflix teases subscribers with 007 films, then quickly removes them. Right now you can watch "Goldfinger," "From Russia With Love," "For Your Eyes Only," "Skyfall" and a few more. You can even watch the Sean Connery-starring almost-Bond entry "Never Say Never Again."

Documentary. Watch as a Baltimorean turns freedom fighter

'Point and Shoot'

The latest stranger-than-fiction doc explores Matt VanDyke, a Baltimore dude who went from motor biking through Africa to fighting in the Libyan revolution, all while filming it — except for the time he spent in a Libyan prison.

American Matthew VanDyke's trip to the Middle East resulted in him fighting in the Libyan Revolution and even being jailed. / NURI FUNAS

The lowdown "Point and Shoot" has a crazy story to tell, and it knows it. That's not to say "Point and Shoot" has nothing but story on its mind. There are numerous ideas running through the film's narrative, often brought up in narration by VanDyke himself: that our star — and even some of his fellow rebels — have been warped by movies, for example, or that he's a reckless fool on the order of Christopher McCandless or Timothy Treadwell. Director Marshall Curry (of the Cory Booker campaign doc "Street Fight") offers the "movie" version of the documentary — a rollicking ride that leaves you with a jaw-dropping story, but one that's also deceptively simple.

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Taylor Swift vs. J.Law: A dating duel

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Single ladies. We create a satirical battle between the two stars.

We just can't stop talking about the love lives of Taylor Swift and Jennifer Lawrence. And if the success of both "1989" and "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1" has taught us one thing, it's that it's really fun to pit beautiful, wildly successful women against each other.

Swift and Lawrence's successes come after some rough patches: most notably, the theft of J.Law's nude photos and Swift's tendency to

Height

Both ladies are known for their statuesque physiques. Have you seen photos of Lawrence (5 feet 9 inches) standing next to Josh Hutcherson on the red carpet? And if you Google, there are photos of Swift (5 feet 10 inches) with poor Josh as well.

The winner: After noting the height differences, head-to-shoulder ratios and heel heights of Josh-Jen-Taylor photos, it's obvious who wins this.

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Horror. 'The Babadook' is scary even without ghosts

A single mom/widow (Essie Davis) slowly discovers that her always freaked-out young son (Noah Wiseman) is right about the ghost haunting their house in a small horror whose biggest cheerleader is "The Exorcist" director William Friedkin.

The lowdown "The Babadook" is about something far scarier than ghosts: children. Even before an angry poltergeist is rattling under wood floors and whispering its titular nonsense name, audience nerves are given a good workout. Already stressed, Davis's Amelia can't handle her son, Samuel, who seems constantly on edge, who interrupts her with false alarms and whose actions border on inexplicable self-destruction. He's been putting his life and those of other children in danger, and has been so bad at school that a flustered Amelia removes him herself. That there's soon an actual ghost in their house is just icing on the cake.

Writer-director Jennifer Kent arguably goes too far in tying the spectral element into Amelia's grief over her husband's death. It makes it more than explicit; there's no other way to read the main beastie as anything but a materialization of her trauma. That doesn't mean this doesn't deliver the spooky house goods, which it does, and in an inspiring fashion. Ghost

Review

'The Babadook'

Director: Jennifer Kent

Stars: Essie Davis, Noah Wiseman

Rating: NR

●●●●○

Interview skills

This is where we begin to see big differences between the two. Where Swift is a PR dream (she's got an arsenal of cute cat stories, fake-surprise faces and don't-ask-me-but-please-actually-ask-me-who-I'm-dating lines), Lawrence is a little more, shall we say, rugged? She talks about peeing and turning toilets blue in her Mystique body paint.

The winner: They've both met and talked to the queen of awesome, Ellen DeGeneres. So it's a tie.

dish about her relationships in her songs. It's no question that the two successful women have loads in common: They're rich, beautiful, talented and blond. In other words, culturally bound to hate each other, right?

A few weeks ago, it was rumored that Swift was after J.Law's ex Chris Martin of Coldplay. In the spirit of the ridiculousness of this, we've compiled a Knockout List to decide — once and for all — which diva reigns supreme. Please read and enjoy it with a grain of salt.

Awards

Lawrence won an Oscar at 22. Swift won Album of the Year at the Grammys at 20 years old. Twenty. Years. Old.

The winner: Swift by a two-year lead

Conclusion

Although Swift comes out ahead in our faux duel, in reality they're both undeniably winners. At life, at entertainment, at being classy and at being successful. That can be intimidating, and it's easy to pit them against each other (um, hello, guilty!) rather than promote an entertainment industry in which there's room for both of them.

Essie Davis and Noah Wiseman are very much afraid of ghosts in "The Babadook," playing the PFS Roxy Theater. / IFC FILMS

movies tend to employ prowling camera work, the cinematographer stalking after potential victims through spaces fraught with peril. Kent uses editing. There's almost no camera movement — just precise cuts from one place to another. Often times her shots hold still, as her film's spirit slowly and casually intrudes on the frame, while the soundtrack goes nuts with unsettling noise. Still, terrifying thought it is, the first half is such an intense portrait of parenthood it's almost a shame this turns into a ghost movie at all — almost. **MATT PRIGGE**

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TV watch list

JAMES FRANCO MADE SURE HE WON'T GO HUNGRY WHILE HOSTING "SNL" THIS WEEK. / DANA EDELSON, NBC

COMEDY

'Saturday Night Live'

Actor/writer/director James Franco steps in to host, with musical guest Nicki Minaj. What are the chances of a Seth Rogen cameo? **SATURDAY, 11:30 P.M., NBC**

REALITY

'America's Next Top Model'

The latest season concludes with a two-hour finale in which the remaining contestants participate in a fashion show in Seoul. **SEASON FINALE, FRIDAY, 8 P.M., CW**

DRAMA

'Once Upon a Time'

The Snow Queen is still wreaking havoc on the town, and Emma and Elsa scramble to stop her. **SUNDAY, 8 P.M., ABC**

LISA WEIDENFELD

Call it a

Jeremy Isaac performs at the 2014 Philly Hip-Hop Awards Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Theatre of Living Arts (334 South St.). Tickets are $29 at lnphilly.com. / PROVIDED

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TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Contact Tyesha McPherson at tyesha.mcpherson@temple.edu or 215-204-6853.

comeback

Genre. R&B is big at this year's Philly Hip-Hop Awards, thanks to audiences craving the return of a truly live show.

R&B singer Milton's "Everybody Knows" is up for Song of the Year.
PROVIDED

Rising R&B singer Milton is no longer a shy guy. He's set to be a featured performer at the 2014 Philly Hip-Hop Awards, Saturday at TLA.

"I haven't performed in a while," says Milton, who goes by just his first name (his last is McCauley). "I don't want to give out too much."

Well, it sounds like he's still a little reticent. Milton is the Maryland native who's been making waves on the 215 scene. He's been working on a new album, "Simple Pleasures," an ambient flow of neo-soul and atmospheric grooves produced by Philly's Rob Devious. His track "Everybody Knows" is up for Song of the Year.

Why, you ask, all the fuss about an R&B cat at a show with hip-hop in the name?

"R&B is back," says Awards chairperson Sonya McDuffie. "There's an unprecedented amount of groups that are here in Philly. There have always been R&B groups but ... it's really about bringing back that authentic black entertainment."

"Hip-hop is not just black, we have a very diverse show. But as far as black audiences, they're getting increasingly turned off from the live show experience because there isn't one," she continues, referring to the widespread use of backing tracks for hip-hop artists.

But with R&B acts now, the live experience is coming back, McDuffie says, "and people are excited."

There are more than 30 artists vying for R&B awards in the male and female categories.

The Urban Celebrity magazine crew, which includes Duffie, has its fingers on the pulse of the city's music scene; this is their fourth awards show. Meanwhile, Lihtz Kamraz, Good Girl, Asia Sparks, PnB Rock, Dave Watson, Santos, David Lyve, Jeremy Isaac and others are set to perform.

Boxer Danny "Swift" Garcia, DJ Jay-Ski, Hilltop Hustlers, Corey Wims, aka "The King of Hooks," and Live Nation regional president Jeff Gordon will be honored in the legends category.

CHRIS JORDAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

City soundtrack

Keeping it local

It's notable that the hit city duo Moosh and Twist will not be in the house, nor are they on any of the nominee lists.

They're currently touring Europe.

"We're always proud of our artists who go out on the road and travel aboard and perform overseas — that's great; we don't want you to always stay local," McDuffie says. "The Philly Hip-Hop Awards are just that, the Philly Hip-Hop Awards. When they come home to perform, they're going to sell out because they're a very popular group and have a rabid fan base. But when we considered the nominees for the Philly Hip-Hop Awards, you have to have a city-wide impact and we're talking about in the streets. What are the DJs playing?"

Real-World Love Advice

CHARLES J. ORLANDO

TheProblemIsMen.com

Charles J. Orlando is a relationship expert and author of the best-selling book series "The Problem with Women ... Is Men." Find out more about him on his Website, or visit him on Facebook for real-world love advice.

How romantic comedies are failing us

I'm a big movie buff. Movies are an escape from reality, and as such the writers and directors demand one thing from the audience: suspension of disbelief. I have no issue with suspension of disbelief. But for movies set in the real world, what I'm not capable of is suspension of realistic possibility.

Romantic comedies are the lowest common denominator for what I call Offensive Visual Improbabilities. Lots of viewers love them, but what bothers me are three things: the male characters, the female characters and the dynamics between them.

In most rom-coms, men assume one of three roles: The Loner/Drifter/Bad Boy, The Lovable Loser or The Rich Tycoon. As for women, they usually assume the role of The Career Woman, The Caretaker/Savior or The Innocent One. What interests me are the "lessons" the viewer learns — and these examples lead to unconscious expectations. Here are some examples:

Go figure: "Pretty Woman" sets a bad precedent for realistic relationships. / GETTY IMAGES

Do this:

- When you tell people you love them, make sure you're ready, not just lonely.
- Don't seek their attention — require their respect. It lasts longer.
- Don't tell them you love them, show them. If you can't, move on and let them find love.

The Bad Boy

The Bad Boy, our first archetype, is emotionally unavailable and distant. He shows our heroine his interest in the beginning (getting her hooked), and she spends the remainder of the film convincing him to love her/change his ways/not leave. She finds validation in his decision to love her (or not), to change (or not) and/or to leave (or not).

The Lovable Loser

He's the man with tons of potential — but he isn't really making an effort to achieve anything. Our heroine can see his potential, but he is unwilling to change/learn/grow. Does she leave? Of course not. She puts in more and more and more until he does change — and he changes (wait for it) for her.

For exclusive commentary, visit **Metro.us/blogs.**

The Rich Tycoon

You know the one. He's great-looking, wealthy, urbane, great in bed, loving — but also broken in some way. She will start out by sacrificing her morals, but then think better of it and break things off. Inevitably, she will discover she was wrong (in true "women are so naive" form) and he will win her over. *yawn*

The female characters in these movies vacillate between various actions and emotions: loving, allowing, angry, bitchy, controlling, accepting, confused. They are usually trying to figure the guy out and understand his motivations, and then adjust their lives to accommodate him.

There's nothing wrong with entertainment or the suspension of disbelief. But this magic formula that shows women over and over how they are the ones who need to constantly adjust and sacrifice who they are for the sake of a relationship is plain wrong.

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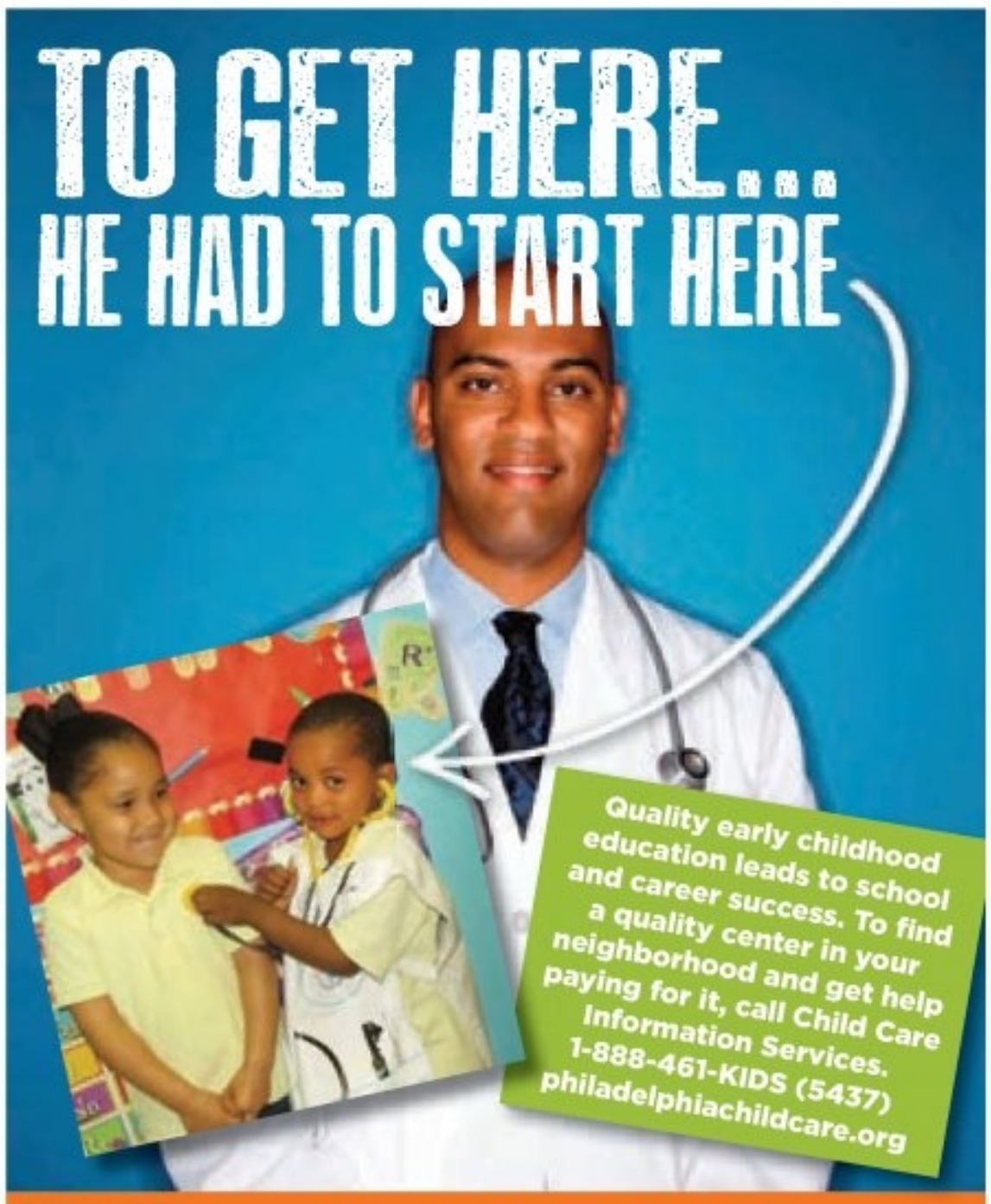
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1 Rachael Ray stays neutral in Paltrow-Stewart War

In the ongoing conflict between lifestyle guru Martha Stewart and self-styled upstart Gwyneth Paltrow, Rachael Ray has decided to be Switzerland. During a visit to "Watch What Happens Live," Ray was pressed to take a side in the dispute and chose to remain neutral. "I'm on team food. I think everybody who likes to eat has a different take on it, and everybody's opinion should be respected," she tells Andy Cohen. "I love Gwyneth Paltrow. I think that she is very devoted to everything she puts her mind to." And Stewart? "I have to have nothing but respect for Martha Stewart. She is a forerunner. I wouldn't have a job without the people who came before me. … Martha Stewart created an avenue for women who work in lifestyle television — period. You have to have respect for all people's opinions ... in my opinion."

Rachael Ray, the food world's Switzerland, is on a peacekeeping mission. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

2 Miley Cyrus gets into the holiday spirit, in her own way

INSTAGRAM, MILEYCYRUS

What would the holidays be without a little tinsel? Or a lot, for that matter. While down in Miami for Art Basel, Miley Cyrus decked her halls with a silver tinsel wig, sheer silver tights and glittery mirror ball pasties — oh, and a silver over-the-shoulder thong, which I didn't know was actually a thing. She performed at the annual event's opening night party, telling the crowd, "You thought this was a respected place where you could escape me?" 'Tis the season, y'all.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

3 Axl Rose is the latest celebrity death hoax victim

Good news for Guns N' Roses fans! The reports of singer Axl Rose's death have been greatly exaggerated. A fake MSNBC report — much like the recent hoax claiming Macaulay Culkin had perished — went out recently saying Rose, 52, had been found dead in his West Hollywood home. But while totally bogus, the hoax did raise at least one question for the man himself: "If I'm dead, do I still have to pay taxes?" he tweeted. Personally, I'm still reeling from the fact that Axl Rose is 52 now.

Daily video

Wes Anderson presents the 'Star Wars' trailer

OK, just one more "Star Wars" trailer-related video and then I'll stop. I mean, I realize we still have a full year before the film comes out. But this one is pretty priceless. YouTuber Jonah Feingold reimagines the teaser as done by quirky auteur Wes Anderson ("Rushmore," "The Grand Budapest Hotel"). And the results? C'est magnifique.

YOUTUBE, JONAH FEINGOLD

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Letters

Video witness of arrests makes a difference

Re: 'No indictment in NY police choke hold case' (Metro, Dec. 4)
You may be assured the very positive meeting/broadcast on the news of no indictment of anybody for anything about the cruel death ("homicide") of unarmed, benign Eric Garner on Staten Island committed by multiple NYC police would not have taken place if an onlooker had not taken an audio and video of the event, causing riots of empathic frustration and anger here and elsewhere.

The new witness of cellphone video and camera images in this and other cities has been instrumental in preventing the downplay of improper illegal actions of some police, and it has enabled the rescue of the rights of civilians in unjust confrontations, where the police have all the power and support of government.

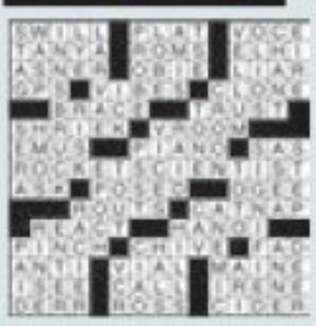
SY SCHLEIMER, VIA EMAIL

Re: 'No indictment in NY police choke hold case' (Metro, Dec. 4)
Guilt or innocence is not the business of the grand jury. I know because I served on one for 30 days earlier this year.

What happened in Staten Island to Eric Garner was a crime. What happened on Staten Island in the grand jury was a travesty.

LARRY D. FOWLER, VIA EMAIL

Thursday's answer



A CAPITOL TREE FOR DC GOODWILL

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

After making what must have been a pretty interesting 1,300 mile journey, the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree went up this week, towering above admiring tourists and glowing members of Congress. (Note to Congressional dining staff: Go easy on the free mulled cider — don't need our lawmakers glowing too much, if you know what I mean.) It's an 88-foot tall white spruce, so I assume it wasn't roped to the top of a Subaru, but who knows how budget cuts are hitting these days, right?

We do know this: It came from the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota, which was established by Teddy Roosevelt more than 100 years ago.

In legend, that area was home to the giant woodsman, Paul Bunyan. And as Senator Amy Klobuchar noted, "It would actually take more than four Paul Bunyan statues to reach the star on that tree."

The Department of Agriculture, which doesn't get a lot of buzz around this town, seems thrilled to have a role in this whole shindig, so an official from their office came over to note that the Chippewa forest "contains 400,000 acres of wetlands and lakes and provides habitats for Canada lynx, Sandhill cranes and the largest breeding population of bald eagles in the lower 48." I don't know how you can tell a breeding population of eagles from a nonbreeding one, but I would guess you look for smiles.

It all started in 1963, with a much smaller, live tree. That one survived for several years before it was unceremoniously shredded by a windstorm, and cut trees became the norm. Over the years, like everything else in D.C., they've grown bigger and bigger.

Anyway, this tree never gets as much attention as the one near the White House that the president lights. But for my taste, I like this ceremony better: A foggy night, a few hundred folks, a flick of the switch, and colored light pours down on a handful of lawmakers talking about peace and goodwill outside the Capitol, even if there is precious little inside these days.

CNN=POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

9			1					
					8	5		6
			5	9	2	3		
		1	3				6	
4	2		7	8	6		1	5
	7				1	4		
		6	8	2	4			
1		5	9					
					5			3

					8			1
	9	6				8		7
				3	7		6	
6			2	1			3	4
		3				1		
5	1			4	3			9
	3		5	2				
2		4				9	5	
1			8					

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Keep anyone trying to persuade you to do something that goes against your morals or beliefs at arm's length. Don't give in to temptation.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Business and pleasure will go hand in hand. You will make a favorable impression on your peers with your friendly and relaxed manner. Advice will come from an unexpected source.

Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You will be overtly emotional to remarks or gestures made in your presence. Step away from the situation before a heated discussion breaks out.

Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Take time to have some fun. Spend the day at a spa, take a hike or listen to music. Time spent alone or with someone you love will ease your nerves.

Aries | March 21-April 20. Your earning potential can increase if you are willing to learn new skills. Take a close look at the qualifications you need to land a top position.

Taurus | April 21-May 21. Difficulties while traveling will be aggravating. Keep a level head during traffic delays or poor weather conditions. It's best to slow down and let everything around you unfold.

Gemini | May 22-June 20. Get out and interact with people who appreciate your attributes and stimulate your senses. Beneficial personal and professional connections will be made if you network.

Cancer | June 21-July 22. You can reduce your stress level if you refuse to let others take advantage of you. Following your intuition will enable you to make the best choice.

Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Don't be tempted to reveal your personal secrets. Deal with unfinished projects and chores. You will accomplish all you set out to do and still have time left over for relaxation.

Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. The key to a current situation can be resolved if you discuss your dilemma with someone you trust and respect. The expertise offered will ensure that you are on the right path.

Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Decisions regarding your financial future should take top priority. Make a list of everything you already have in place and set realistic goals.

Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Deception is evident. Someone will keep important information from you. Don't believe everything that you are told or shown.

EUGENIA LAST

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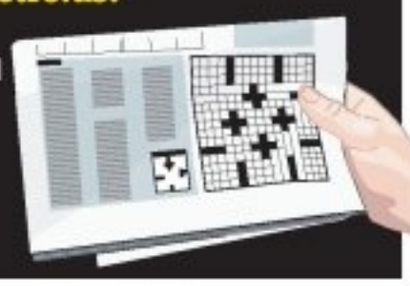

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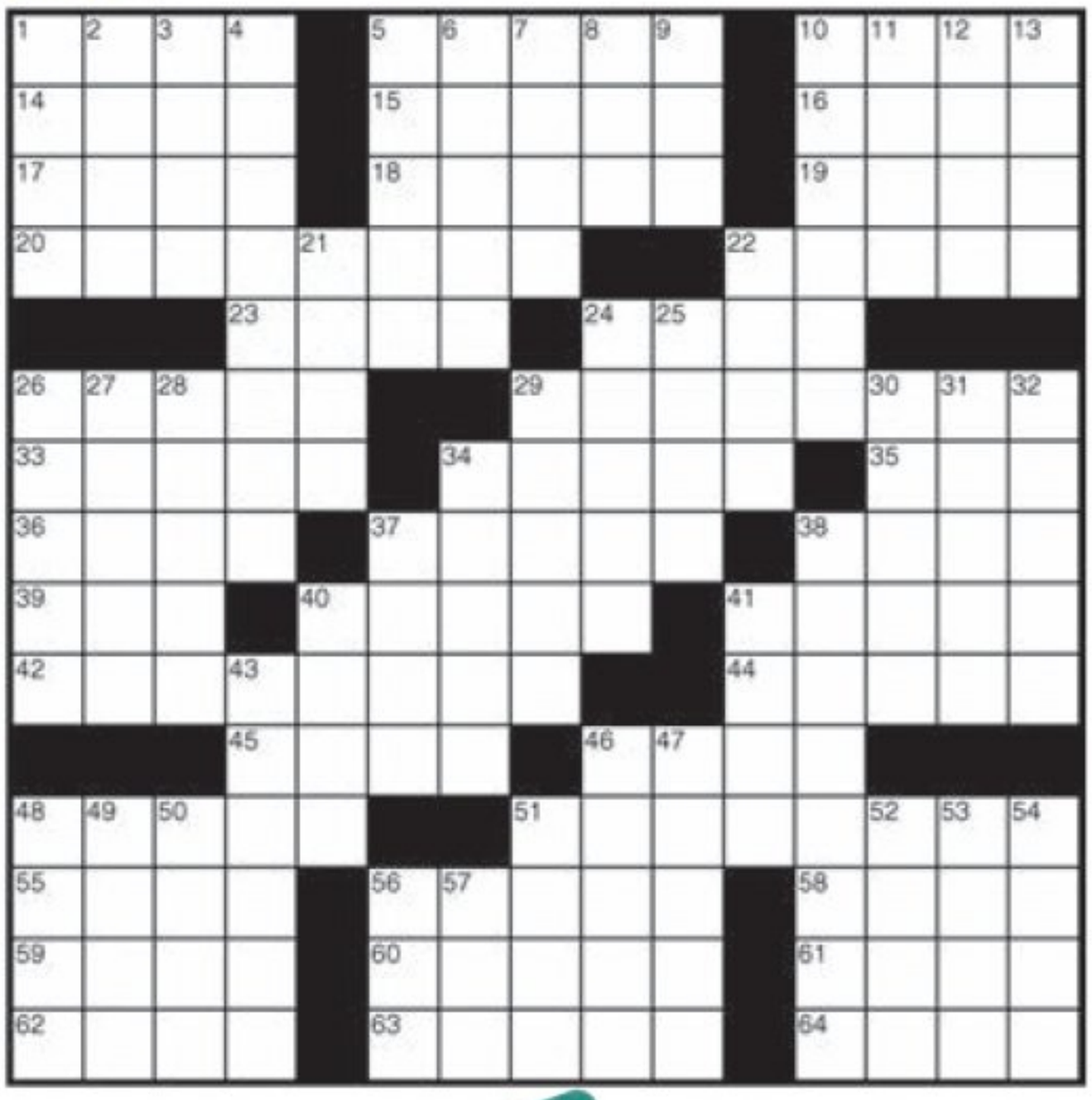

Across

1 Surfeit
5 Guzzle
10 Lectern
14 PC system
15 Cousin's dad
16 Late summer fruit
17 An ellipse has two
18 Figure of speech
19 Bus alternative
20 Put in office
22 Wheeled platform
23 Jetty
24 Deportment
26 Vine support
29 Sioux garb
33 Unsinkable she
34 Ms. Zellweger
35 Thurman of "Gattaca"
36 Rock star, maybe
37 Bartletts' kin
38 Diploma holder
39 Apply a patch
40 Facts
41 Hot — sundae
42 Feted ones
44 Stair part
45 Heels
46 Sorrel or bay
48 Pipe sealer
51 Gave back
55 — Minor
56 Violin's middle
58 Overhang
59 Without fat
60 Michael Caine role
61 Lithe
62 Greek instrument
63 First American in orbit
64 Barn neighbor

Down

1 Muslim mystic
2 Prolific auth.
3 Involuntary movements
4 Election-night event (2 wds.)
5 Rather
6 Less than
7 Tart
8 Ziegfeld nickname
9 Not masc.
10 Chefs' wear
11 Sit-down occasion
12 Kettle handle
13 Monsieur's airport
21 Well-ventilated
22 Hockey feint
24 Chomp
25 Finishes the cupcakes
26 Noted quilt makers
27 Cheyenne meet
28 — up (inflated)
29 Defeats
30 Some Iraqis
31 Mind's-eye view
32 D.C. consumer advocate
34 Womanizers
37 Multiplied
38 Sir Alec --
40 Shallow container
41 Herr's wife
43 Gasoline rating
46 Violinist's need
47 In many cases
48 Yank
49 Heavy hydrogen discoverer
50 Industrial giant
51 Widespread
52 Surrealist painter
53 Like Lex Luthor
54 Audition tape
56 Shake a finger
57 More than most

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SPORTS

Changes coming?

Phillies respond to Eskin's story

The Phillies made a statement but did not completely deny Howard Eskin's reports that a new majority owner will soon emerge for the Phils. "There has been no determination made regarding [David Montgomery's] future status," the statement, released late Wednesday said.

76ers' first win is huge relief for young team

NBA. The Sixers avoided another NBA-loss record with their first win of the year Wednesday.

This year's 76ers are the youngest team in NBA history. / GETTY IMAGES

This doesn't solve all their problems, but for the 76ers, simply having the chance to celebrate one victory is an achievement.

After starting the season with 17 consecutive losses, they traveled to Minneapolis and defeated the short-handed Timberwolves, 85-77, on Wednesday night.

Sure, the Sixers are still 1-17 after the much-needed win, but they didn't tie the 2009-10 New Jersey Nets for the most losses — 18 — to open a season.

Could the Sixers still challenge their own dubious mark of 9-73 in 1972-73? Absolutely. But for one night, they were able to revel in a victory. That's saying something in this tumultuous season.

"There's a human side that you walk into that locker room, and you're just proud of them for staying together, and they're just overjoyed," Sixers coach Brett Brown told reporters. "We all feel like we've been pretty close the last handful of games, dozen games, we've been pretty close. It's been a five-point game, in fourth periods, in 11 of our 18 games."

Michael Carter-Williams was arguably the biggest reason for the one-night turnaround.

MCW registered a triple-double against the Dallas Mavericks and followed that with another solid all-around performance against the San Antonio Spurs. Carter-Williams was far from perfect against the Timberwolves, but he took control in the fourth quarter.

"He [Carter-Williams] was very strong in his desire to try and get us a win," Brown said.

The Oklahoma City Thunder will visit the Sixers tonight and should have Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook in the lineup. Nothing will come easy for the Sixers, who feature the youngest roster in NBA history.

Wins will likely be scarce so they'll enjoy each one as it comes.

"We feel like this validates the work they've put in," Brown told reporters.

Quoted

"I just have a tremendous amount of respect for the fact that they never once quit on themselves, short-circuited a practice, and they were rewarded." Brett Brown

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3 Things to watch for as the Eagles host the Seahawks

NFL The Eagles welcome the defending Super Bowl champs Sunday afternoon in a battle of the best in the NFC.

Prior to Thanksgiving day, the Eagles showed they could take care of business when they were expected to, feasting on the NFL's worst. But with losses to the 49ers, Cardinals and Packers, it was unclear if they could beat a playoff contender.

Clarity came in a Thanksgiving melee that Eagles fans will remember for a long time, with the Birds firing on all cylinders against their bitter rivals the Cowboys in the national spotlight.

Now, the Eagles must take down the defending champs at home before welcoming the Cowboys in their home finale in Week 15.

Can they make another statement and move to 7-0 at home this weekend?

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1 Contain 'Beast Mode'

The Eagles held the NFL's leading rusher, DeMarco Murray, in check in Dallas last week and it did a lot for the Eagles both defensively and offensively.

Their ability to limit the Cowboys ball-control offense gave the Eagles offense more opportunities itself.

Against another tough, hard-nosed runner and talented offensive line, the Birds will be tested against Marshawn Lynch.

Contrary to what one might think, Chip Kelly does not see their success against Murray translating easily into success against Lynch.

"They are both very difficult backs to defend in terms of tackling them," the coach said, "whether it be in the open field or in congested areas, because they are both physical backs. But, it's a totally different scheme and different mindset for our players."

Philly's run defense will also have to make sure it keeps an eye on Russell Wilson, who is an agile pocket presence who can scramble for big gains in any game situation.

Lynch has nine rushing touchdowns this season but none in his last three games.

2 Limit turnovers

The Eagles won the turnover battle big time last week in Big D, and a victory was their reward.

But last week's solid performance from Mark Sanchez and the Eagles' offense is far from the norm. The Birds lead all of football with 28 giveaways this season. Their 16 interceptions are tied for the most in the league, but their saving grace is their defense, which has generated 22 takeaways.

The Eagles will need to take care of the ball and watch out for lurking Richard Sherman, who had two interceptions last week.

"They lead the National Football League in defense and rightly so," Kelly said. "They are a good defense."

SHERMAN COULD SHUT DOWN THE BIRDS' TOP RECEIVER JEREMY MACLIN ON SUNDAY.

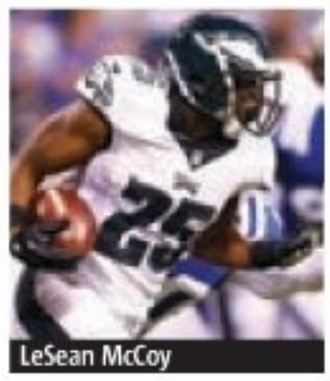
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

3 Get McCoy the rushing title

LeSean McCoy looks just like he did when he led the NFL in rushing last year. Fresh off of 159 yards on 25 carries last week, McCoy is suddenly the third-leading runner in football.

If McCoy picks up just 48 yards against Seattle he'll be the Eagles all-time leader.

"I think it just tells you what type of back he is," Kelly said. "I knew early on once we got here what type of presence LeSean has and what a tremendous asset he is, especially when he has a ball in his hands in terms of what he can do: His ability to make people miss, his ability to get the ball up the field."



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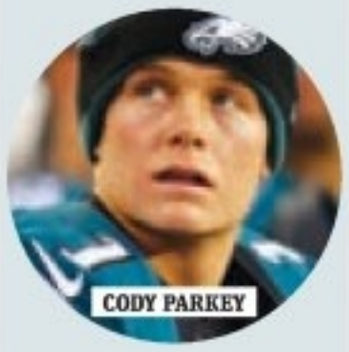

The Eagles, aside from their long-term setbacks in DeMeco Ryans and Nick Foles, have not been healthier this season, and that's certainly a good thing. Here's a look at the status of some key Birds heading into Sunday's game vs. Seattle.

- **Nick Foles, shoulder:** "He had a checkup on Friday. His clavicle is healing, but he hasn't been cleared to play. ... He'll have another exam until he eventually gets cleared. The bone isn't healed yet," Chip Kelly said earlier this week.
- **Cody Parkey, groin:** "Parkey was good. He'll be fine. He's 100 percent in terms of being ready to go on Sunday. He's a little banged up and now he'll be back ready to go," Kelly said of the Eagles' kicker, who was limited in practice Thursday.
- **Trey Burten, hamstring, Chris Polk, ankle:** Both were limited earlier in the week, but Kelly said both were expected to be healthy by Sunday. "They are going to practice today," the coach said.

Week 14 can make or break playoff hopefuls

NFL. Several key division games could separate the contenders from the pretenders this weekend.

Drew Stanton can go a long way toward proving he can lead Arizona to an NFC West title with a win vs. the Chiefs Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

With four games to go before the playoffs begin, nearly 20 teams are still alive and vying for postseason position A handful of 1 p.m. matchups serve as great warmup for Eagles fans waiting for the Birds and Seahawks to kick off at 4:25 p.m.

Here's a whip around the league to break down some of the biggest the Week 14 games.

Steelers at Bengals (-3)
The Bengals have a win (and two losses) on the Steelers for first place in the AFC North. It's a tough division test on the road, but the Steelers are currently in a logjam at 7-5 along with five other wild card contenders. Cincinnati is riding a three-game win streak, but they have the fewest points scored of any playoff contender by a long shot.

Rams (-2.5) at Redskins
The Colt McCoy era got off to an impressive start last week, though it did end with the Redskins losing their ninth game. It will be interesting to see this revitalized Rams squad battle a bottom-feeder as they look to forge a miracle march toward a wild card berth.

Giants at Titans (even)
The spread says it all. The Giants are even money on the road. If you don't have fantasy players involved in this one, it's probably best to tune it out.

Ravens at Dolphins (-2.5)
Both Baltimore and Miami have wild-card aspirations. Their 7-5 records reflect two teams that are floating just above the .500 mark both in the standings and in quality of play. The Ravens defense could give Ryan Tannehill a hard time under the warm winter sun of South Florida.

Colts (-3.5) at Browns
The world has been robbed of the chance to see Johnny Manziel run an NFL offense for an entire 60 minutes. Brian Hoyer has been officially named the starter for Week 14, but it shouldn't matter — the Colts can inch even closer to an AFC South title with a win on the road.

Texans (-5) at Jaguars
There aren't too many reasons to check out this one that aren't related to J.J. Watt. He has more touchdowns than LeSean McCoy and can single-handedly annihilate an offensive gameplan.

Bills at Broncos (-10)
Peyton Manning and Denver are back at Mile High and the Bills should be worried. Not only do they have to face one of the best quarterbacks whose ever lived, but the Broncos' ground game is peaking after gaining 214 yards in a win over Kansas City last week.

Chiefs at Cardinals (even)
Both Arizona and Kansas City are looking to stop the bleeding. What was unthinkable a few weeks ago — the Cards (9-3) not winning the NFC West — now seems almost likely with 8-4 Seahawks breathing down their necks. Both the Chiefs and Cardinals have lost two straight. Who will lose a third?

Patriots (-3.5) at Chargers
The Chargers narrowly squeaked past the Ravens in a dramatic shootout in Baltimore last week. Though they're riding high, don't expect New England to be down for long, as a bounce-back win can get them back in position for a first-round bye.

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Berube on the

NHL. Is it time for Philadelphia to shake things up and fire head coach Craig Berube?

The hot seat has not cooled much for Philadelphia Flyers coach Craig Berube during the team's West Coast trip. Already on thin ice before heading to California for three games, the players have not made life easier for him after surrendering a goal in the last minute in Tuesday night's 2-1 loss to San Jose and then squandering a 3-1 lead in a 5-4 shootout loss the next night in Anaheim.

Heading into the final game of the road swing in L.A. on Saturday, the Flyers are 1-8-2, including 0-4-2 in their last six games. It's enough to wonder if GM Ron Hextall is mulling a change behind the bench.

With that in mind, Metro has come up with three reasons why Berube should stay, and three why he should go.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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Shake things up

Three reasons Berube should be fired

1 Same roster, different results
Aside from a few alterations, this is basically the same team Berube had last season. It's the same one that recovered from a franchise-worst 1-7 start to finish an impressive 42-30-10 with 94 points and in third place in the Metropolitan Division. Berube has failed to get at least the same output from the same players.

2 He's been pretty impatient
Quick to pull the trigger on changing lines this season, Berube's impatience has not allowed players to develop any chemistry with one another on the top three lines. It has led to a stagnant and sometimes invisible offense.

3 Change for the sake of change
Even if it's not the coach's fault, sometimes change is needed. It harkens back to the old sports cliche: You can't fire 20 players but you can fire the coach. That mantra may apply here.

Stay the course

Three reasons Berube should not be fired

1 It's not his fault
It's the players who are not executing. Berube isn't the one turning the puck over on defense or failing to score. A vote of confidence from Hextall would put more of the onus on the players.

2 The GM made the mistakes, not the head coach
This isn't Berube's mess. Former GM Paul Holmgren, who was promoted to president in the summer, provided Berube with a slow defense and overpaid forwards that have forgotten how to score (yeah, we're looking at you, R.J. Umberger, Matt Read and Vinny Lecavalier).

3 Berube deserves more time
As stated above, Berube proved he can win with this flawed roster. Give him another couple of months to right the ship. If he can't, then let him go, promote an assistant to interim coach and hire a new head coach when the summer arrives.

By the numbers

3.03
Flyers' average just over three goals against this season — the fourth-highest in the NHL.

4
Ironically, the Flyers do have the fourth-most-potent offense on the power play, scoring at a 23.5 percent clip.

30
The Flyers' penalty-kill unit is ranked dead last in all of hockey, stopping opponents' power plays just 74.4 percent of the time.

0-4
The Flyers have yet to win a shootout this season, their latest setback coming in Anaheim on Wednesday.

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hot seat for Flyers

The Flyers, with 20 points, are currently in 13th place in the Eastern Conference and six points behind Florida, the No. 8 team. / GETTY IMAGES

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A108 - Bowell, Ashley • A137 - Darragh, Brian • A138 - Moton, Lisa • A201 - Dawson, Theresa • A238 - Cartwright, Frederick A418 - Bailey, Centrin • A515 - Baker, Lakea • A537 - Kirkland, James • A544 - James, Dionne • A596 - Browley, Tamila A807 - Campbell, Stanford • A848 - CLUELOW, PATRICIA A • A849 - Wills, James • B1122 - Suarez, Jose • B1312 - Gerome, Marty B1434 - Cardona, Gustavo • B1532 - Miller, Brandon • B1548 - Davis, Tara • B1631 - Velazquez, Victoria • B1721 - Alvarado, Mercedes C2210 - Patterson, Latoya • C2323 - Narbeck, Sandra • C2929 - Burk, David • C2932 - DeBacchi, Christopher

All Sales Are subject to Cancellation Public Storage Terms, Rules and Regulations will be made prior to the sale. PS Orangeco Inc. 701 Western Ave. Glendale California, 91201. PS ORANGECO, INC

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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seq,. A Public Auction Will take Place on **12/18/14** at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. **Public Storage Located At, 1251 Byberry Rd, Philadelphia PA 19116 at 11:00 AM (215) 676-8764**

B202 - Perry, Patricia • C314 - Hoppe, Robert • C344 - Brady, William John D409 - Murphy, Lakisha • D428 - Baker, James • G702 - Barr, Nicole • G770 - Livingston, Daniel K1348 - Wells, Harold - SeaDoo, Red, PA4828CE • K1372 - Perry, Michael

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1021 - Santiago, Barbara • 1085 - Dworonizak, Jennifer • 1093 - Crosen, Raynard • 1120 - Reyes, Carmen 1182 - Jankowski, Francis • 1223 - Gaziel, Brenda • 1277 - Fenlner, Elaine • 2076 - Smith, David 2085 - Ortiz, Jennifer • 2151A - Ramos, Anna • 2194 - Brown, Hamia • 2268 - Weston Jr., Paul • 2271 - Brown, Felicia 2349 - Martinez, Eladio • 3168 - Graham, Scott • 3223 - Hoffman, Jr, Russell • 3413 - Brown, Jay

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A033 - Rosario, Jenna • C235 - Washington, Tinisha • C254 - MacDougall, Bruce C290 - Podietz, Marsha • C310 - Lavin, Thomas • C312 - Gibson, Patricia C338 - Surentz, Mark • D367 - Carbone, Marcello

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A042 - Mercado, Manuel • B187 - Sumpter, Demarcus • B238 - Lloyd, Sabrina • C299 - Randolph, Ashanti C305 - Joseph, Natalie • C338 - Berry, Sheila • C340 - Giandomenico, Paola • E518 - Wright, Jacqaline F548 - Horstman, Kurt • G631 - Viola, Louis • G633 - Eli, Tiffany • G635 - Ware, Johnika

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B010 - Wing, Dwayne • D068 - Cable, Rosalind • D090 - Coles, Adonis • E181 - HENLEY, CHARLES • E232 - Sims, Eric E303 - Freeman, Michael • E322 - DOYLE, DAVID / JANICE • G023 - Daniels, Comfort • G048 - Bolly, Nicole • G418 - Joseph, Jonathan G450 - Long, Sherlark • G451 - Saunders, Samantha • G456 - Peter, Dale • G481 - Tucker, Tonia • G504 - DEMPSEY, ERIC • G627 - Meltzer, Tasha P H630 - Arnold, William • H804 - Thomas, Keshia • H849 - Alston Hotrichias, Sandy • J925 - Landon, Ricardo • J933 - Collick, Fred L004 - Thompson, Patricia • N013 - Jones, Naimah - GMC Suburban 1998, vin Ch14, Green

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A099 - Johnson, Sarah • A108 - Fitzhugh, Anthony • A141 - Rivera, George • A164 - Kelta, Comeika A208 - Seaser, Jtrease • B119 - Kinsey, Darrien R. • B130 - Vazquez, David • D010 - Walters Jr, Norman R D013 - Lederer, Christine • E092 - SEENEY, SILVER • E096 - Sherman, Lakeisha • F024 - Burkhardt, Shauna

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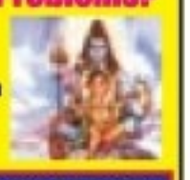

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City of Philadelphia Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee on Public Health and Human Services** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, December 10, 2014,** at **10:00 AM,** in **Room 400, City Hall,** to hear testimony on the following item:

140952 Resolution authorizing the Committee on Public Health and Human Services to hold hearings regarding the Department of Human Services' Improving Outcomes for Children initiative and the Community Umbrella Agency provider system.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee on Public Health and Human Services, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed item.

Copies of the foregoing item are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael Decker
Chief Clerk

Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, Oct. term, 2014, No. 847.
Notice is hereby given that on October 9, 2014, the petition of Malek Maher Abu-Obaid was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Malek Maher Al Tatarsinan.
The Court has fixed courtdate, December 10, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

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****Rubies are lead-glass filled. Fine jewelry specials are available in stores that carry fine jewelry. Free item must be of equal or lesser value than purchased item. Returns must include purchased and free items.** REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES, AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. SUPER SATURDAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 12/5-12/6/2014. MERCHANDISE WILL BE ON SALE AT THESE AND OTHER SALE PRICES THROUGH 1/3/15, EXCEPT AS NOTED. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights (ct. t.w.) are approximate; variance may be .05 carat. Jewlery photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones have been treated to enhance their beauty and require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Orig/Now items will remain at advertised prices after event and are available while supplies last. Extra savings taken off already reduced prices, "special" prices reflect extra savings. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's and selection may vary by store. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Luggage & electric items shown carry warranties; to see a manufacturer's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to: Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026 Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn Consumer Warranties. **For store locations & hours, log on to macys.com.** N4111215.

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